

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W
----- 102656

O 311335Z MAY 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6041

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 GENEVA 3434

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR BUNKER

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS PFOR MEPC IS SY

SUBJ SIGNING OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

SUMMARY: SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED IN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY WORKING GROUP AT 11:45 A.M. GENEVA TIME MAY 31 IN SOMEWHAT STIFF BUT CORRECT AND NON-POLEMICAL ATMOSPHERE. MINOR PROBLEMS HAVING MOSTLY TO DO WITH SEATING ARRANGEMENTS WERE RESOLVED WITHOUT SERIOUS DIFFICULTY IN BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS PRIOR TO MEETING. EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE DID NOT REPEAT NOT SIGN. FOLLOWING SIGNATURE, BRIEF FIRST MEETING OF WORKING GROUP WAS HELD TO DISCUSS PROCEDURES FOR FOLLOWING MEETINGS. IN ADDITION, SYRIAN AND ISRAELI DELEGATES CONFIRMED THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS HAD ORDERED CEASEFIRE EFFECTIVE 12:00 NOON AND 11:00 A.M., RESPECTIVELY, GENEVA TIME. BOTH ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THEY HAD MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR EXCHANGE OF WOUNDED POW'S SATURDAY MORNING. IT WAS AGREED THAT NEXT WORKING GROUP MEETING WOULD BE HELD SATURDAY, JUNE 1, AT 4:00 P.M.

1. GENERAL SIILASVUO CONVENED MEETING OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI

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MILITARY WORKING GROUP IN PALAIS DES NATIONS

AT 11:15 A.M. GENEVA TIME MAY 31. AFTER BRIEF OPENING STATEMENT BY SIILASVUO (TEXT BY SEPTTEL) AT WHICH MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WERE PRESENT, SIILASVUO RECESSED MEETING FOR 15 MINUTES AT REQUEST OF SYRIANS TO PERMIT MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES TO LEAVE, SINCE SYRIAN DELEGATION DID NOT WANT ACTUAL SIGNATURE TO BE IN PUBLIC SESSION. SIGNATURE WAS COMPLETED AT 11:45 A.M. GENEVA TIME BY BRIG. GEN. ADNAN TAYYARA FOR SYRIA AND MAJOR GEN. HERZEL SHAFIR FOR ISRAEL. EGYPTIAN REPRESENTATIVE, BRIG. GEN TAHA EL-MAGHDOUB, DID NOT REPEAT NOT SIGN.

2. PRIOR TO MEETING, MAW COMPARED AND VERIFIED TEXT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF UN AND OF EACH DELEGATION. DURING SAME PERIOD, BEGINNING AT 8:15 A.M., ATHERTON AND I HAD ROUND OF MEETINGS WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF EACH DELEGATION AND WITH GUYER AND SIILASVUO TO MAKE CERTAIN THERE WOULD BE NO LAST-MINUTE HITCHES. QUESTION OF SEATING WAS WORKED OUT IN ADVANCE WITHOUT SERIOUS DIFFICULTY AS FOLLOWS: THERE WERE FIVE TABLES ARRANGED AS PENTAGON, WITH SIILASVUO PRESIDING, GUYER ON HIS RIGHT, AND WINSPEARE OF GENEVA UN STAFF ON HIS LEFT. MOVING CLOCKWISE, ISRAELI DELEGATION SAT AT UN'S LEFT WITH SHAFIR, COL. SION, AND MFA LEGAL ADVISER ROSENNE. US DELEGATION WAS AT LEFT OF ISRAELIS WITH ATHERTON, MAW, AND I AT TABLE AND AMBASSADOR DALE, LAMBRAKIS, AND DCM ABRAMS BEHIND. SOVIET DELEGATION TO OUR LEFT HAD AMBASSADOR VINOGRADOV, ZHUKOV, AND COL. TATAZNIKOV, WITH A SECOND COLONEL AND MEMBERS OF SOVIET MISSION BEHIND. TO LEFT OF SOVIET DELEGATION WERE SYRIANS AND EGYPTIANS AT SAME TABLE IN THAT ORDER. SYRIANS HAD GEN. TAYYARA, COL. IBRAHIM AL-UMAR, AND AMBASSADOR SALAH AL DIN TARAAZI FROM MFA DAMASCUS. EGYPTIAN GEN. MAGHDOUB SAT AT TABLE WITH EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AND EGYPTIAN-GENEVA REPRESENTATIVE AL ARABI BEHIND.

3. AT MEETING WITH VINOGRADOV FIRST THING THIS MORNING, HE RAISED QUESTION OF US-SOVIET PARTICIPATION IN ONGOING WORKING GROUP MEETINGS. AFTER WE HAD CHECKED WITH ISRAELIS, SYRIANS, AND EGYPTIANS, IT WAS AGREED THAT VINOGRADOV AND I WOULD NOT REPEAT NOT BE PRESENT FOR FOLLOW-ON MEETINGS, BUT THAT HIS TWO COLONELS PLUS ATHERTON AND LAMBRAKIS WOULD ATTEND. IN OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS AND UN, WE ARE STRESSING THAT WE CONSIDER US AND SOVIET PARTICIPATING TO BE ESSENTIALLY IN SECRET

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OBSERVER STATUS. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT VINOGRADOV ENVISAGES MORE ACTIVE ROLE, WITH OPTION KEPT OPEN FOR HIM AND ME TO ATTEND SESSIONS IF CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT. WE WILL HAVE TO PLAY THIS ONE BY EAR AS WE GO ALONG.

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /031 W

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FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6042

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS

4. FOLLOWING SIGNATURE OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, GENERAL SIILASVUO POSED TWO QUESTIONS TO THE PARTIES. FIRST, THAT INSTRUCTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO OBSERVE CEASEFIRE AND FROM WHAT TIME. GENERAL SHAFIR REPLIED THAT ISRAELI FORCES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CEASE FIRE AT 12:00 ISRAELI TIME (COMMENT -- WHICH CORRESPONDS TO 11:00 A.M. GENEVA TIME). MR. TARAAZI, AFTER CONFERRING WITH BRIGADIER GENERAL TAYYARA, SAID SYRIAN FORCES HAVE BEEN INSTRUCTED TO CEASE FIRE AT 12:00 NOON GENEVA TIME.

5. SIILASVUO'S SECOND QUESTION WAS WHAT ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR POW REPATRIATION. GENERAL SHAFIR FOR ISRAEL REPLIED ALL ARRANGEMENTS WERE MADE FOR TOMORROW (JUNE 1). MR. TARAAZI FOR SYRIA REPLIED WOUNDED PRISONERS WILL BE RETURNED AT 12:00 NOON GENEVA TIME TOMORROW (JUNE 1).

6. GENERAL SIILASVUO THEN ASKED WHEN THE PARTIES WOULD LIKE TO MEET NEXT. ON SYRIAN SUGGESTION, IT WAS AGREED PARTIES WOULD MEET AT 4:00 P.M. TOMORROW, JUNE 1. THEY WOULD MOVE TO ANOTHER, SMALLER ROOM, WHICH HAS BEEN USED FOR THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI MILITARY WORKING GROUP.

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U.S. AND SOVIET REPRESENTATIVES WILL ATTEND AS OBSERVERS.

7. GENERAL SIILASVUO ASKED FOR SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PARTIES ON SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED TOMORROW. MR. TARAAZI OF SYRIA SUGGESTED THE GENERAL PROBLEM OF WITHDRAWAL. GENERAL SHAFIR OF ISRAEL SAID, BECAUSE THERE ARE SO MANY SUBJECTS TO DISCUSS, HE WOULD LIKE TO START WITH THREE: (1) OVERALL TIMING OF WITHDRAWALS; (2) ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPATRIATION OF DEAD BODIES; AND (3) ARRANGEMENTS FOR REPATRIATION OF ALL VEHICLES IN NO-MAN'S LAND.

8. TARAAZI ASKED WHAT KIND OF VEHICLES SHAFIR HAD IN MIND. SHAFIR REPLIED DESTROYED VEHICLES. TARAAZI (AFTER CONSULTING, AS HE DID REGULARLY, WITH BRIG. GEN. TAYYARA) SUGGESTED THAT WAS LESS IMPORTANT SUBJECT THAN OTHERS.

9. GENERAL SIILASVUO THEN PROPOSED, ON BASIS OF HIS UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THE PARTIES WANTED, THAT MEETING TOMORROW BEGIN WITH GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE DISENGAGEMENT PROCESS. IF TIME PERMITS, DISCUSSION CAN TOUCH ON DETAILS SUCH AS VEHICLES AND BODIES OF THE DEAD. THERE WAS NO DEMURRAL TO THIS PROPOSAL.

10. UPON GENERAL SIILASUVUO'S SUGGESTION, IT WAS DECIDED THAT THIS HAD BEEN THE FIRST MEETING OF THE MILITARY WORKING GROUP IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

11. IN REPLY TO INVITATION FOR FURTHER COMMENTS, GENERAL SHAFIR EXCLAIMED: "BLESSINGS AND GOOD LUCK."

12. THE GROUP ADJOURNED AT APPROXIMATELY 12:00 NOON.DALE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, MILITARY AGREEMENTS, MEETINGS, MEETING PROCEEDINGS, MEETING REPORTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974GENEVA03434
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740137-1130
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974054/aaaaadam.tel
Line Count: 204
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 JUN 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <25 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SIGNING OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT SUMMARY: SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED
TAGS: PFOR, IS, SY, MEPC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005